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ELLSWORTH JEROME HILL

ALBERT E. HILL

Ellsworth Jerome Hill was born December 1, 1833, in LeRoy, New York, a prosperous and charming town in the rich valley of the Genesee. His father, a thrifty farmer, sprang from English stock that emigrated to Guilford, Connecticut, in the middle of the seventeenth century. His mother was descended on the maternal side from the Dutch of the Mohawk and Hudson River valleys.

His early education was for the most part of the primitive country-school sort. From the age of four to twelve he went, summer and winter, to a cross-roads school. Afterwards, when his help was needed on the farm in summer, his attendance was limited to the winter term. Three winters in the academy at Le Roy, in which he began the classics and took up such other studies as would be of help in teaching, completed his formal preparatory work. There was, however, another kind of education he pursued with increasing fervor almost from childhood to the end of his life—the education derived from the constant and thorough reading of good books. As a young man he became convinced, in his own words, "that where one had gone before it was possible for another to follow, with or without a teacher, if every step was mastered as one went along." No man was ever more faithful than he in mastering each step, or more thoroughly in command, as he was till his last hour, of the wide range of facts that his reading covered.

What seemed at the time a fatal handicap came to him when he was twenty. For a year he was almost helpless from an affection of the knee. Yet there was an element of good fortune in his affliction, since it led him to the study that later became his passion. To get out of doors he began, on the advice of his physician and with the aid of Wood's text-book, the study of Botany. Crawling painfully on crutches to the edge of the orchard he secured a few flowers and these he succeeded in identifying. When next year he went to Mississippi to escape the rigor of a northern winter, he pursued the study as constantly as his preparatory teaching of boys and girls would permit. A camp stool strapped on his back, for use when he must rest, and with two canes to support his weak steps, he would make such excursions as he could to the woods and fields in search of specimens. These he classified with a high degree of accuracy, considering the meagerness of the available material on the subject.

After three years in Mississippi he returned to Le Roy where he continued to prepare himself for college and to study Botany. In 1860 he entered Union Theological Seminary in New York City from which he graduated in 1863.

From 1863 to 1869 he was a pastor of the Presbyterian church in the district of eastern Illinois. A return of his old trouble, this time affecting his hip-joint, compelled him to lay aside his pastoral work. He never actively resumed it, though he continued to be a member of the Chicago Presbytery for the rest of his life.

These were hard days. But for the courage and helpfulness of his wife to support his own determination to achieve something of worth it is difficult to see how he could have survived the trial. He returned to teaching when his

strength was barely enough to sustain existence. From 1870 to 1874 he taught the languages, botany, and geology in the high school of Kankakee, Illinois. While he was still lame he went to Minnesota for a few months, broken in health, but unshaken in purpose. Again his wife's help saved the day for his botanical studies. She gathered the plants that he had not the strength to hunt, while he wrote out their descriptions, there being no books at hand by which to identify them. In every way, as she did throughout the years that followed, she gave richly of her strength and encouragement that he might succeed.

Though it was years before he fully regained his health he was never troubled with another attack of lameness. By the exercise of the utmost care he slowly regained strength. He moved to Chicago in 1874. From this date to 1888 he taught physics and the natural sciences in the high school at Englewood, now a part of the great city. On holidays in the spring and fall he still further built up his strength and added to his knowledge of his favorite subject by making botanical excursions to the country within reach. The summer vacations he spent, when he could, in extended trips to places farther away, chiefly to the regions bordering on the Great Lakes.

In 1888 he abandoned teaching as a profession. Having inherited some property from his father he was able, by careful management, to spend most of his time in the intensive study of his chosen science. Until three or four years ago he continued to make short trips to gather specimens and study the conditions of the plants in which he was most interested. It was a sad day for him when he discovered that his expeditions must be given up. His work in his own study, however, he never abandoned. Even so late as the fall of 1916 he prepared an article for the press.

A severe attack of pneumonia in the spring of 1915, from which his indomitable will rescued him, left him weakened. After that he hardly left the house. In fact, for more than a year previous to his death he did not stir abroad. The last year he had not the strength to go down stairs. Yet daily he was dressed and sat in his easy chair beside his writing table. He kept track of world events to the last. His mind remained as clear as it had been in his youth, as firmly in command of its great store of knowledge. Death came to him gently on January 22, 1917.

It does not often happen in these days that a scientist is also a man of wide learning in the humanities. Ellsworth Jerome Hill was one of these few men. He maintained to the end his hold on Hebrew and the Latin and Greek classics. He had a good knowledge of French and German literature as well as that of his own tongue. He kept thoroughly posted on the political, religious, philosophical and social movements of his time. And, naturally, he knew much of the other sciences besides botany, in particular of geology, into which at one time he had gone rather deeply. As he gave freely of his means to charity, so he gave generously of his knowledge to the many that came to him for help.

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LIST OF WRITINGS ON BRYOPHYTES BY REV. E. J. HILL*

AGNES CHASE

1. *Fissidens grandifrons*, its Habits and Propagation. BRYOLOGIST 5: 56. 1902.
 2. Branched Paraphyses of *Bryum roseum*. BRYOLOGIST 6: 80. 1903.
 3. *Encalypta procera* Bruch. BRYOLOGIST 8: 107. 1905.
 4. The Validity of some Species of *Fissidens*. BRYOLOGIST 10: 67. 1907.
 5. Note on *Amblystegium noterophilum*. BRYOLOGIST 12: 108. 1909.
 6. Charles R. Barnes and Julius Röhl's Collection of Mosses in North America. BRYOLOGIST 13: 105. 1910.
 7. Notes on *Lepidozia setacea*. BRYOLOGIST 15: 44. 1912.
 8. The Annulus of *Tortella caespitosa*. BRYOLOGIST 16: 17. 1913.
 9. Notes on the Distribution of *Polytrichum strictum* and some associated Sphagna. BRYOLOGIST 17: 63. 1914.
 10. *Fontinalis Umbachii* Cardot. BRYOLOGIST 18: 10. 1915.
 11. Notes on *Funaria*. BRYOLOGIST 19: 35. 1916.
 12. *Fossombronina crispula* in the Dune Region of Indiana. BRYOLOGIST 19: 67. 1916.
- WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOTES ON THE HEPATICAE OF MT. KTAADN

ANNIE LORENZ

Mt. Ktaadn's *massif* was fairly well explored for mosses by Messrs. Kennedy and Collins during their expedition of July, 1900. For the extremely interesting illustrated account of this expedition the reader is referred to *Rhodora* for June, 1901. It was this report which first aroused the writer's desire to visit the mountain, and the opportunity offered by the Appalachian Mountain Club's 1916 August Camp was too providential to be lost.

Our camp was on the north shore of Chimney Pond, a few rods back from the beach. The cliffs towered above us for over 2000 ft., to the Cairn on the summit of West Monument Peak, an impressive and awe-inspiring spectacle. During the whole trip, a well-thumbed copy of that *Rhodora* enabled us to follow the various activities of the Kennedy party. Camp Kennedy, close to our camp, was practically in ruins, and helped to heat our cooking-fires, but it was most entertaining to find everything just as it had been described.

It was also interesting to note the differences caused by the season, as they were there early in July when the water was high; in late August the "bog around the edge of the pond" was practically dry, with a beach of loose stones and boulders all the way around. The "brook by the camp" was also a delusion. They had rain every day, we had no regular rainy day, and

*For a complete list of botanical papers written by Rev. E. J. Hill, 162 titles, see an article by Miss Chase in *Rhodora* 19: 61-69. April, 1917.